

POSTAL THIEVES ORGANIZED.

EVIDENCES OF A SYNDICATE TO LEVY BLACKMAIL.

The Rake-off on All Contracts for Supplies Fixed at 40 Per Cent.—Investigators After a Gang That Operated for Years—Go-Betweens Distributed the Cash.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—The most startling feature of the postal service scandals which are now engaging the attention of high officers of the Post Office Department is the growing belief that the irregularity and criminality which have been disclosed are not simply the result of a tendency toward personal gain, but are due to the operations of an organized scheme of graft. This is the first time that an intimation of this character has been made, but, according to excellent authority, the reasons for such a belief are sound and the actual proof that such a syndicate or system existed is piling up day by day as the inquiry progresses.

The attention of the investigating authorities was first attracted by the fact that the prevailing rake-off on departmental contracts was 40 per cent. Former Superintendent of the Free Delivery Division, Machen, is charged with having received 40 per cent. of all sales to the Government of the patent fastener used on street letter boxes. Charles McGregor and C. Ellsworth Upson, two of Machen's subordinates, are charged with having received 40 per cent. on sales of rural free delivery mail pouches to the Government. Other officers of the Post Office Department, who will soon be indicted by the Federal Grand Jury, are alleged to have received 40 per cent. on sales of various supplies used in the postal service. These contracts were made through the salary and allowance division.

Forty per cent. is said to have been the rake-off given to postal officers in the sale of the cash registers to the Government. In other cases the investigating authorities are morally certain that the rake-off was 40 per cent.

When the existence of such a system of blackmail collection was first hinted at some time ago—and it was not through the newspapers that the matter was first brought into notice—the high officers of the Department scoffed at the suggestion. It was preposterous, they asserted—absolutely ridiculous to believe that the postal service had been organized for the purpose of making developments have made it absolutely necessary that the graft syndicate be taken seriously, and the principal matter upon which post office inspectors are now working concerns the existence of this 40 per cent. system of collection on Government contracts.

The revelations up to date point to the fact that this alleged syndicate was an actual organization with a directing head and officers designated to perform the details of the work. That the machinery of this concern worked smoothly is shown by the fact that for year after year its operations were continued without the slightest suspicion being aroused, and that the investigation of the postal service scandals had been in progress over three months that the matter was seriously taken up by the officers in charge of the inquiry. Now that the matter has been considered it will be pushed to as speedy a conclusion as possible, and the charges of conspiracy to defraud the Government will be brought to the attention of the Federal Grand Jury here and in New York.

Postmaster-General Payne will not say whether the head of the graft syndicate is supposed to be one of the department officers, whose names have been mentioned in connection with the present inquiry or some person "higher up." In fact, he will not discuss the matter at all. Postmaster-General Payne is equally reticent, contenting himself with the statement that the public is acquainted with the facts in due course of events.

But it is known that the investigating authorities will at once begin an investigation into the alleged conspiracy, and that the matter will be pushed to as speedy a conclusion as possible, and the charges of conspiracy to defraud the Government will be brought to the attention of the Federal Grand Jury here and in New York.

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A REVOLUTION IN SCIENCE.

OLD THEORY OF MATTER IS NOW DISCARDED.

What Have Been Considered Indivisible Units Shown to Be Made Up of Ions in Orbital Motion—Electricity and Matter One—Shown by the Study of Radium.

LONDON, June 20.—The world's foremost searchers after the ultimate secrets of the universe have at length committed themselves to a stupendous theory which has for some time been foreshadowed and has now apparently been substantiated by the study of the new substance called radium. Prof. Crookes the other day in Berlin and Prof. Lodge and Curie, this week in London, have confidently proclaimed that it is easy to define this great revolution of science in scarcely more than a sentence. To comprehend it however, is almost as far beyond the power of the human mind as the idea of eternity or infinite space.

The old theory that the atoms of elements consist of indivisible units of matter has now been definitely discarded. Instead, we are told that each atom is a whole stellar system of infinitely smaller, but absolutely identical, units, all in orbital motion. A hydrogen atom consists of 700 such units, or ions. The nature or identity of each substance depends upon the number of such ions contained in each atom, thus 11,200 ions in each atom produce what we know as oxygen, and 137,200 of the same kind if combined in a single atom would yield what we regard as gold. The nature of these ions is, for want of a better word, electrical. In other words, electricity and matter are one and the same thing.

This theory has been more or less familiar to scientific men for two or three years, but has not been demonstrated until recently, when the study of the Röntgen rays suggested it, and now radium seems to furnish a complete proof, and also carries its conception into a marvellous clarification. An examination of radium and other phenomena leads Prof. Lodge and his associates to believe that matter is not stable in its atoms, as has been heretofore supposed by everybody familiar with the disintegration of matter, which means the rearrangement or recombination of elements. Thus, water may be separated into oxygen and hydrogen, but it was never before imagined that the atoms themselves were capable of disintegration. Prof. Lodge suggests that this is the normal process of nature, yet it is proceeding at a rate so slow that it baffles the powers of conception of the human mind to estimate the length of time required.

In radium alone it proceeds so rapidly that the phenomenon is easily observed. M. Curie, the discoverer of radium, in some wonderful experiments at the Royal Institution last night, showed that radium spontaneously and continuously disengaged heat, rapidly affected photographic plates, even through opaque bodies, discharged an electrostatic machine, and in its vicinity, and gave off emanations similar to itself in constant and even violent streams or radiations; in other words, the 120,000 ions which compose each atom of radium rotated so violently that they flew apart into original units. It has been calculated, however, that this efflux from radium is so infinitesimal that a square inch of surface would lose only one grain in ten thousand million years.

Prof. Lodge surmises that this process of disintegration of atoms may constitute the evolution of the chemical elements. He announced that within a few weeks Prof. Ernest Rutherford of McGill University, in Montreal, had observed the break-up of the most massive atoms. He stated that some few massive atoms, if active substance seemed to reach a critical stage at which they flung away small portions of themselves with great violence, the residue having the same property of instability for some time until ultimately it settled down into what is presumably a different substance. Changes of this sort in more stable atoms would require millions of millions of centuries, so long that the longest periods in astronomical evolution would seem but hours in comparison. Prof. Lodge affirms, however, that these changes seem bound to occur, according to fixed laws.

So the state of flux and decay is recognized, not only in the stars and planets but in the foundation stones of the universe, which are the elemental atoms themselves. The process of regeneration, however, can also be imagined, and it would occur if the separations ever aggregated themselves together by their mutual attractions into fresh material. The progress of the research may lead us to recognize the existence of atoms, some of which were recently formed and others very ancient.

It will be seen that the whole theory in effect is an astronomical one. Chemistry has, in fact, become the astronomy of the infinitesimal. One is led to wonder, then, if the earth and the other planets are not mere ions forming a single atom of a higher universe, where, perhaps, they constitute a speck of dust that worries the careful housewife in the world next above us. At all events, we are clearly on the verge of the greatest revelation that science has yet vouchsafed to mankind and knowledge that is only limited by the capacity of the human mind to receive it.

CHATTANOOGA STILL HELD.

Barber-Constable Places the Former Pedler in Charge and Goes to His Shop.

ELIZABETH, N. J., June 20.—Sheriff Corbett's deputies are still in legal possession of the cruiser Chattanooga, at the Crescent shipyard. They will hold the vessel under the warrant of seizure granted by the Supreme Court of New Jersey until the claim of Babcock & Wilcox for \$19,500, due on her boilers, is satisfied, or until a higher court directs their withdrawal. The Sheriff expects no developments before Monday.

Because this was Saturday, and he had many customers to serve, Henry Schoppe, the barber and constable who captured the cruiser, delegated command of the vessel to Fred Toipel, the former pedler who assisted in the capture, and Peter Weaver of Plainfield.

Mosquitoes Make a Desperate Surrender.

NEW ORLEANS, June 20.—Willie Henderson, a negro desperado of this city, who shot a white man for refusing to serve him beer, has been driven by the mosquitoes to surrender to the police. After shooting the negro fled from his home on Gayoso street to the swamps north of the city. He lay in the swamp one night but was driven out by the mosquitoes which were literally eating him alive.

First Rock Island Train in Atlanta, Kan., in Twenty-three Days.

ARLINGTON, Kan., June 20.—The first train over the Rock Island railroad for twenty-three days arrived here this evening. The track to the west end of the branch, Salina, will not be repaired for several days.

Summer Schedule of the Long Island Railroad, with increased train service, will take effect June 23.

Butler Drowned at a Picnic.

Capitulated Near "Nigger Pond" Near Ramapo—Boy With Him Swam Ashore.

TUXEDO PARK, N. Y., June 20.—Sidney Owen, a butler employed in the family of Mrs. William Pierson Hamilton of Tuxedo Park, was drowned yesterday at what is known as "Nigger Pond" near Ramapo. His body was discovered this morning.

Mrs. Hamilton gave a picnic to her employees, who invited their friends, and all drove to Ramapo. They were about to return when Owen went out to a canoe. He was not accustomed to rowing and upset the boat. He sank at once. A small boy, a son of Mrs. Hamilton's coachman, who was also in the boat, swam to shore.

CUNARD LINE IS OUT.

Of Passenger Combination on the Atlantic—Expected to Cut Rates.

The Cunard Line has withdrawn from the passenger agreement of the steamship combination known as the North Atlantic Conference, which is made up of lines running ships between this port and ports of Great Britain and Ireland. Some of the lines in the conference include the Cunard Anchor and Allan-State, are not in the fleet of the International Marine Company, which is represented in the conference by the White Star, the Atlantic Transport, the Leyland and the International Navigation Company (American and Red Star Lines).

The Cunard line notified the conference three months ago of its intention to withdraw from the matter of cabin rates and freights and recently it gave fourteen days notice that it would consider annulled also the agreement in regard to steamer rates. The latter notice becomes effective on July 1.

The object of the Cunard line is to "be free to do as it pleases." This is interpreted to mean that it will try to get a larger share of the big passenger and freight business done by the International Mercantile Marine Company.

The cause of the Cunard's withdrawal was the putting on by the combination of regular Friday ships of the White Star, and extra Tuesday ships of the Leyland Line, running as White Star liners.

GOOD OUTLOOK, SAYS GATES.

Stock Speculator Says the Worst Has Been Reached in the Market.

CHICAGO, June 20.—John W. Gates arrived from the East last night and in an early hour today he was in La Salle street, accompanied by his son, Charles G. Gates. Both went direct to the Rookery office of Harris, Gates & Co. Mr. Gates thinks the worst has been experienced in financial affairs.

"You see," he explained, "England and France—I was in both countries—are now in an exceptionally good condition financially. The reduction in the discount rate by the Bank of England showed that the Londoners are at their ease. The Transvaal war was a big success. France was a large subscriber and is looking about to place more funds. I think both France and England will be liberal buyers of our securities, always provided that we do not deprecate and depreciate our own value."

"I'm not going right back to New York as reported. Chicago is good enough for me. I like Chicago. It is my home. I always feel better here and accordingly I'm very glad to be back. I shall probably remain here for a couple of months before going anywhere for either business or pleasure."

JOHN MITCHELL III.

Recent Nervous Strain Too Much for Him—Engagements Cancelled.

INDIANAPOLIS, June 20.—President John Mitchell of the United Mine Workers' union at his home in this city and was obliged today to cancel an engagement to address a miners' meeting at Winslow, owing to the condition of his health.

It is said that Mitchell has been greatly worried over the many petty strikes that have followed the signing of the bituminous coal and the settlement of the anthracite strike and that his condition is due to nervous exhaustion.

Besides these annoyances, he has been travelling almost constantly for a month and has been irregular in his habits in respect to eating and sleeping.

Mitchell's fellow officers have insisted that he take a rest and his physician has urged it so earnestly that all his present engagements have been abandoned.

AUTO CAR KILLS A BOY.

Eight-Year-Old Run Over on Upper Fifth Avenue—Driver Arrested.

Eight-year-old Rudolph Werspa of 24 West 122nd street was run over and killed yesterday by an electric car at 107th street and Fifth avenue. The car is owned by Alexander Fischer, an importer of automobiles, at 239 West Fifth street, and was driven by William F. Holzman of 215 West 104th street.

The Werspa boy, his ten-year-old brother Charles and some other lads, were playing on the sidewalk when the car struck them. Holzman started his car, and the older brother started to pull Rudolph out of the way. The boy became confused and started in the other direction. The driver thought he could dodge the boy by making a sharp turn, but the front wheel passed over the boy's head and he was killed.

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ATLANTIC SHIPPING COMBINE.

Story of Reorganization and Assessment Pronounced Absolutely Untrue.

A member of the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co. said yesterday regarding assertions made in a cable despatch from London: "Any story that the International Mercantile Marine Company is to be reorganized and its stock assessed is absolutely untrue."

GATES'S \$5,000 DRIVE.

No Proper Carriages for Hire for the Derby to the Derby. He Buys Two.

CINCINNATI, June 20.—When John W. Gates looked over the vehicles to-day to go to the Derby, he found he had neglected to provide one that would do for cold weather like that of this morning. He accordingly went to a large carriage concern and bought two landaus for use on the occasion, paying \$4,000 each for them. With seven friends he drove out to the clubhouse early and kept warm inside his new purchases.

ROBBED LESLIE PUBLISHING CO.

Frank C. Jappe, the Treasurer, Arrested—His Stealings Reach \$10,000.

Frank C. Jappe, 33 years old, bookkeeper, cashier and treasurer of the Frank Leslie Publishing House, at 143 Fifth avenue, was arrested yesterday by Detective Sergeants Clarke and Mulcaire on a charge of grand larceny. Jappe is married and lives at 811 High street, Hoboken. He was found at the home of a relative in Fordham.

According to his own admission, he has falsified the accounts of the publishing firm for the last three years, and has stolen in all \$10,000.

He will be arraigned in the Tombs police court this morning, and President Frederick L. Colver of the company will appear as the prosecuting witness.

WAS AT A NON-UNION WEDDING.

Mine Workers' Official Was Best Man, and He's in Trouble Over It.

TAMPA, Fla., June 20.—John Hudeck of Onondaga, president of the United Mine Workers of that town, is in trouble because he officiated as best man at the wedding of a non-union man, Julius Thomas, to Miss Julia Wargo, both being from Onondaga. It is alleged that Thomas worked during the last strike at one of the collieries of Cox Brothers & Co.

When it became known that the president of the Onondaga local had officiated at the wedding the members of the Onondaga local rose up. A demand has been made on Hudeck that he be expelled from the union. Friends of the president say that he was not aware at the time of the wedding that the bridegroom had been a non-unionist.

TEN KILLED BY DYNAMITE.

Six Die at Once and Four Afterward—Lightning Caused It.

CAMBRIDGE, Ohio, June 20.—At 2 o'clock this afternoon lightning struck 3,000 pounds of dynamite stored at the Somers coal shaft at Senecaville, 16 miles south of here. Hiram Wilson, Sam Hartup, Russell Hartup, Hays Hutchinson, Albert Watson and Will Mahoney, who were working on the dynamite, were mortally injured and a large number injured seriously. Four have died since the accident.

The shaft is half a mile south of the village and is owned by the Somers Coal Company of Cleveland. The force of the explosion blew the dynamite into the air, and it fell in a shower of fire. Every window was broken, the Old Fellows Hall and Keller Building are damaged. A relief train with physicians has been sent from this city.

LOST BOY WEIGHS 180.

Six Feet 2 Inches Tall and Too Big to Go to School.

John W. Trivet of West Point went to Police Headquarters here last evening and asked that the police find his seventeen-year-old brother Charles. The missing boy is described as being 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighing 180 pounds.

According to his brother, Charles refused to go to the public schools at West Point because he was so big. He left West Point on Wednesday and has been traced to this city.

FIRE IN BANKING HOUSE.

Little Blaze in the Room of the Auditor of Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co.

Fire in the banking house of Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co. on the third floor of the Broad Exchange Building, 25 Broad street, caused some excitement and did about \$100 damage late yesterday afternoon. Saturday being a bank holiday, the big persons about when the fire started were scrubwomen and porters. The blaze was in the auditor's room, which was pretty well wrecked before the fire was extinguished.

Three Girls Have a Browning Man.

WATERBURY, Conn., June 20.—The lemons of three schoolgirls of Prospect street, the talk of the village. The girls are Annie and Mamie Perkins and Alice Gould, none of them over 15 years old. Samuel Rose, a farmhand, started home drunk last night to the Perkins farm. He missed his way and walked into a fish pond nearly ten feet deep. The girls, all good swimmers, ran to the rescue, and when the aid plank was succeeded in getting the intoxicated man to the bank, where the neighbors saved his life with restoratives.

"The Sun's" Friends at Yale.

NEW HAVEN, June 20.—The senior class statistics at Yale were given out to-day. For the favorite newspaper "The Sun" of New York had 179 votes, the Herald, 54; the Tribune, 21; the Times, 11. No other New York newspapers were mentioned in the vote.

Harold Vanderbilt Gets a Medal.

Congressman and Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont were among those present at the graduation exercises of St. Mark's School at Southboro, Mass., yesterday. When the award of honors was made it was learned that the Fourth Annual Medal, which is conferred as a special token of distinction for marked ability, had been won by Harold H. Vanderbilt, Mrs. Belmont's youngest son and brother to the Duchess of Marlborough. Young Vanderbilt, who is about 17 years of age, will probably enter Harvard in the fall.

Says He Can Steal Marconi Messages.

MILWAUKEE, June 20.—Marconigrams can be run down and captured by any one who is equipped with the proper instruments, says Charles L. Fortier, who is an expert electrician. Mr. Fortier has been experimenting with his invention, and has been catching messages passing between here and Chicago by the Marconi system, although his instruments have not been "tuned" with those of the Marconi plant.

HOUNDS TO TRACK MURDERER.

WHO KILLED POLICEMAN IN ROCHELLE PARK.

Police Think He May Be a Resident of That Fashionable District—Identified Witness Midnight Murder by Mysterious Man With a Pack on His Back.

New ROCHELLE, N. Y., June 20.—Policeman Maurice Ahearn was murdered early this morning by a supposed burglar whom he encountered coming out of Rochelle Park carrying a bag on his back. The murderer, after killing Ahearn, riddled his body with bullets. Ahearn died on the lawn of Joseph T. Brown, vice-president of the Knickerbocker Trust Company.

The murder occurred at about 1:15 o'clock directly in front of the home of Mr. Brown, who lives at 143 Rochelle Park. The murderer was a man of about 30 years of age, of medium build, with dark hair, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored shirt. He was carrying a bag over his shoulder.

"You'll have to show me what you have got in that bag or I'll look you up," Dr. Johnson said to the man. "It's none of your business what's in the bag," replied the man gruffly. "The stuff that's in it belongs to me, and that's all you need know."

Dr. Johnson noticed that the man spoke with an Italian accent. "I believe you are a burglar," said Ahearn as he took the stranger by the throat. "You'll have to go over with me to the station house and give an account of yourself."

The policeman took hold of the man the latter grabbed him by the throat. Ahearn was a powerfully built man with big, broad shoulders. When he was wrestling with him on the lawn and then, finding himself evenly matched, drew his revolver and began to shoot him over the head.

At each blow the man cursed or shrieked. Dr. Johnson says that they fought for five minutes, when he heard Ahearn shout "Help! I'm shot!" and saw him fall.

The murderer, who had started to run away, turned back, and, standing over Ahearn, fired three more shots. As he fired, he exclaimed: "I'll show you what's in this bag!"

Then he walked coolly away toward the main entrance of the park and disappeared down stairs and telephoned to the police. Then he went out on the lawn and found several other neighbors who had been sleeping in the park. The policeman had been killed almost instantly.

Sergeant Kelly sent out a general alarm to the police of New York and to Westchester County, and the police of New York and Westchester County were alerted. Although fifteen minutes after the crime was committed he had half a dozen policemen scouring the park and the surrounding country for the murderer, no trace of him was found.

The only clue left by the murderer is a lot of mud stains in the park, and a broken flower. The police believe that the man carried this to prevent silencing from rattling. Chief Timmons has not been notified that the man is still in the park. He has been killed almost instantly.

Sergeant Kelly sent out a general alarm to the police of New York and to Westchester County, and the police of New York and Westchester County were alerted. Although fifteen minutes after the crime was committed he had half a dozen policemen scouring the park and the surrounding country for the murderer, no trace of him was found.

The police are at work on the theory that the murderer was perhaps not a burglar but a resident of the park, who mistook Ahearn, who was in plain clothes, for a highwayman. Ahearn would have probably killed the man if he could have drawn his revolver, but when he reached to get it he found it entangled in a tobacco pouch.

The Knights of Columbus of New Rochelle, of which Ahearn was a member, made arrangements to-night to run down the murderer with bloodhounds. The Knights, in searching for bloodhounds, could find none near New York. They were referred, however, to Dr. Longest, who owns two of the animals. Dr. Longest agreed to send on his hounds free of charge.

The hounds are expected to arrive to-morrow morning. They will be put on the scent at Rochelle Park, where the policeman, in the light, is thought to have spilled some of the murderer's blood.

FOUR KILLED IN A DREK.

Head-On Collision on Champlain Division of the Delaware and Hudson.

GLENS FALLS, N. Y., June 20.—Four men were killed and two injured in a head-on collision this morning on the Champlain division of the Delaware and Hudson Railroad two miles north of Dresden. A light engine, in charge of Henry W. Collins, with Fireman Frank Moore, was running north, with orders to follow the Montreal sleeper.

The sleeper met at Pulpit Point a south-bound freight, which pulled out on the main line. Conductor Barker and Engineer Darmody, who were two of the men killed, were following the freight train, and Collins and Moore, a brakeman, who was also killed, were on the freight, were killed instantly.

Engineer Darmody and Brakeman Cheney of the freight were injured, but will recover. The men killed all lived in Whitehall and leave families.

Officers of the road have investigated to-day, but have been unable to determine why the train men obeyed signals. The engineer of the sleeper in not displaying the signal of a train following or the fault of the freight train crew at fault and has rendered a verdict of accidental death through neglect by the train men to obey signals. The locomotive was demolished.

DIDN'T WIN ENOUGH ON N. P.

Berthe Muller (1,480 Shares) Says Her Broker Was Too Slow in May, 1901.

Justice Trux of the Supreme Court has granted an attachment against Gurley & Johnson, stock brokers of Washington, for \$2,000 in favor of Berthe Muller on claim for failure to sell her stock quickly enough on May 8, 1901, at the time of the Northern Pacific corner. She ordered them to sell 1,450 shares of stock, and she says that if they had sold the stock within a reasonable time after getting the order she would have realized \$15,287 more than she did.

SERVIA PUTS IN A DEFENCE.

KILLING OF KING SANCTIONED BY THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Protests Against Great Britain's Action in Withdrawing Her Minister—He Expresses Regret That Queen Draga Was Slain.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERGRADE, June 20.—M. Kalievich, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, has issued a statement which may be regarded as the official explanation of the views of the Government in regard to recent events. In reference to the recall of Sir G. Bonham, the British Minister, he expresses deep indignation at the intention of Great Britain, indicated by this fact, to hold the present Serbian Government responsible for the murders.

M. Kalievich expresses regret that Queen Draga perished, all the more so as her death was by no means necessary, even though she had been detested by the whole country from the moment she presumed to put the crown on her unworthy head.

The upheaval was the work of a number of officers who had resolved to prevent the proclamation of Queen Draga's husband as heir to the throne. It was sanctioned by the army and the whole country.

The declaration goes on to point out the devotion, patriotism and courage of the members of the provisional government in sinking party differences and taking up the reins of power at a critical moment in the absence of all authority. Proof of their great service is to be found in the peace and order which is now prevailing. The statement continues:

"We therefore regret the attempt made by England as a result of erroneous information to cast suspicion upon a state of affairs which has for its object the maintenance of order and the eventual reorganization of a young nation which has passed through a time of trial and which is attached to the cause of liberty and civilization."

OR RELATIONS WITH SERVIA.

Not Likely That the President Will Insist That the King's Assassins Be Punished.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—Until the new Serbian monarchy has been firmly and formally established the United States Government will adopt no measure toward entering into diplomatic relations with it. John B. Jackson, who was appointed United States Minister to Greece, Roumania and Servia, is not in Belgrade, but the credentials which he bears are still valid, as they are accredited to the late King Alexander. To secure recognition of the new Serbian dynasty, it will be necessary for him to present new letters of credence, addressed personally to King Peter Karaagevich.

While no decision has been made as to the course